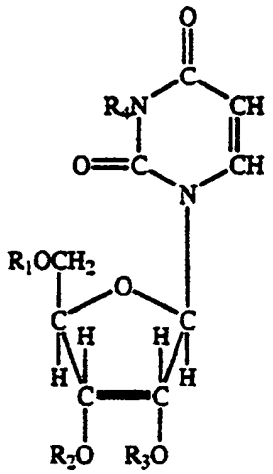
(I)



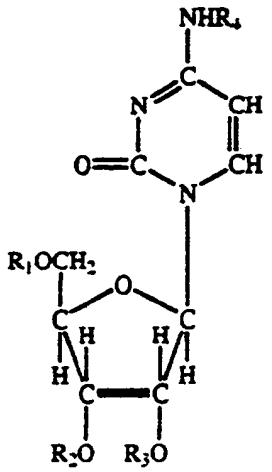
wherein R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 are the same or different and each is hydrogen or an acyl radical of a carboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of glycolic acid, pyruvic acid, lactic acid, enolpyruvic acid, an amino acid, a fatty acid of 2 to 22 carbon atoms, lipoic acid, pantothenic acid, succinic acid, fumaric acid, adipic acid, acetoacetic acid, p-aminobenzoic acid, betahydroxybutyric acid, orotic acid, and creatine, provided that at least one of said R substituents is not hydrogen, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,

wherein said composition is in a form suitable for oral administration.

41 (New). A pharmaceutical composition comprising an acyl derivative of cytidine having the formula (III)

(III)



wherein R_1, R_2 and R_3 are the same or different and each is hydrogen or an acyl radical of a carboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of glycolic acid, pyruvic acid, lactic acid, enolpyruvic acid, an amino acid, a fatty acid of 2 to 22 carbon atoms, lipoic acid, pantothenic acid, succinic acid, fumaric acid, adipic acid, acetoacetic acid, p-aminobenzoic acid, betahydroxybutyric acid, orotic acid, and creatine, provided that at least one of said R substituents is not hydrogen, and R_4 is an amino acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,

wherein said composition is in a form suitable for oral administration.

42 (New). A composition as in claim 40 wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is a filler selected from the group consisting of a sugar, a cellulose preparation and a calcium phosphate.

43 (New). A composition as in claim 42 wherein said sugar is lactose, sucrose, mannitol or sorbitol.

44 (New). A composition as in claim 40 wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is a binder selected from the group consisting of maize starch, wheat starch, rice starch, potato starch, gelatin, tragacanth, methyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, and polyvinyl pyrrolidone.

45 (New). A composition as in claim 40 wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is selected from the group consisting of carboxymethylstarch, cross-linked polyvinyl pyrrolidone, agar, or alginic acid or a salt thereof.

46 (New). A composition as in claim 40 wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is a flow-regulating agent or lubricant selected from the group consisting of silica, talc, stearic acid or salts thereof, and polyethylene glycol.

47 (New). A composition as in claim 46 wherein said salt is magnesium stearate or calcium stearate.

48 (New). A composition as in claim 40 wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is a coating selected from the group consisting of sugar solutions which optionally contain gum arabic, talc, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyethylene glycol and/or titanium dioxide, lacquer solutions, and a cellulose preparation.

49 (New). A composition as in claim 48 wherein said cellulose preparation is acetylcellulose phthalate or hydroxylpropylmethylcellulose phthalate.

50 (New). A composition as in claim 40 wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is gelatin.

51 (New). Composition as in claim 40 wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is a base selected from the group consisting of triglycerides, paraffin hydrocarbons, polyethylene glycols and higher alkanols.

52 (New). A composition as in claim 40 wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is a lipophilic solvent or vehicle selected from the group consisting of fatty oils and fatty acid esters.

53 (New). A composition as in claim 40 wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is an aqueous injection suspension selected from the group consisting of sodium carboxymethylcellulose, sorbitol, and dextran.

54 (New). A composition as in claim 40 wherein said acyl derivative of uridine is 2',3',5'-tri-O-acetyl uridine, 2',3',5'-tri-O-propionyl uridine, or 2',3',5'-tri-O-butyryl uridine.